The AIIMS administration, however, have taken various steps to improve the system of procurement and issue of medicines for hospital stores to the patients and other user areas with a view to checking misuse of medicines. Some of the important steps taken are as follows:

- Guidelines for receipt and issue of medicines as suggested by ACB, New Delhi are followed and medicines are issued to user areas mentioning batch number.
- Inventory management and reconciliation of stock are made at regular intervals.
- Procedure for receipt of material in hospital stores and issue of medicines have been rationalized.
- An inspection committee has been constituted under the control of faculty incharge of concerned stores. All items received by the concerned storekeeper will be inspected by the inspection committee within 48 hours of receipt of item.
- All the complaints regarding availability and non-availability of medicines are enquired into by the senior officers as and when required.
- It is the continuous endeavour of the Government for better management of stores and strengthening of inventory control systems.

Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS

568. DR. AKHILESH DAS : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Media Leaders Summit on HIV/AIDS recently held in New Delhi took note of the fact that from one reported case in 1986, HIV positive cases in India have already crossed five million mark;

(b) if so, the reasons for such an alarming rise in HIV positive cases despite a concerted effort and campaigns not only by Government agencies but also by NGOs; and

(c) the steps proposed by the Summit and being adopted by Government to make a dent in the rising trend in HIV/AIDS cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Reasons for rise in HIV positive persons are as under:-

- Low awareness of people about HIV/AIDS in the country, especially rural and female population in the highly vulnerable states;
- High proportion of migrant population;
- Inadequate safe sex practices; and
- Large number of vulnerable population.

National AIDS Control Organization conducted National Baseline General Population behavioural surveillance survey in 2001. The findings revealed that 76% of the respondents had heard of HIV/AIDS and 46.8% of respondents were aware of two important methods of prevention and transmission, 11.8% of males and 2% of females reported sex with non-regular partners while only 51.2% among males and 39.8% among females have reported using condoms during the last sex with their non-regular sex partners.

(c) Emerging from the Summit, were the following steps and action points-

(i) All 25 Executives from Media Companies who attended signed a statement of support pledging to work together to raise public awareness about HIV/AIDS.

(ii) To ensure synergy of media efforts and identify opportunities, share resources and co-ordinate the entire media effort with NACO.

(iii) New Commitments were made by several attending Media Leaders, including Dainik Jainik, Hindustan Times, MTV, NDTV, Prasar Bharti, SET India, STAR TV, SUN TV, Hindu and Zee TV.

Spurious Medicine's Trade Centres

569. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the remedial measures and actions taken so far in connection with Bhagirath Place in Delhi which runs a clandestine empire in spurious